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Solomon's Horse-trade.—By WILLIAM R. ARNOLD, Professor
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FOR the difficulties attending the interpretation of the passage 1 Kings 10:28 f. (=2 Chron. 1:16 f.) the reader is referred to the commentaries of Kittel and Benzinger on the books of Kings and Chronicles, and to Burney's recently published *Notes on the Hebrew Text of the Books of Kings*. I make no attempt to determine the historical question as to where Solomon actually got his horses from, but am merely concerned with the interpretation of what the author of our passage had to say—whether from knowledge or from ignorance—upon that subject.

A comparison of the Hebrew text of Kings and Chronicles easily yields the following as the original text of Kings:

ומוצא הסוסים אשר לשלמה ממצרים ומקוה סחרי המלך
יקחו מקנה במחיר ויעלו ויצאו ממצרים מרכבה בשש מאות
כסף וסוס בחמשים ומאה וכן לכל מלכי החתים ולמלכי ארם
בירם יצאו

The only alteration I have made on conjecture is the reading **מקנה** in place of the second **מקוה** of the text, which is thereupon satisfactorily rendered:

And the exportation (we would say importation) of Solomon's horses was from Egypt. For (י=German nämlich) a company of the king's traders (customarily) took currency for exchange, and went up and exported from Egypt, (at the rate of) a chariot for 600 pieces of silver, and a horse for 150. And so with all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Aram: by means of them (the merchants) they (the kings) exported.